

Application No.: 09/960,306

Docket No.: 20272-00688-US

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings of claims in this application.

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An electrical socket comprising:

a retaining structure and a plurality of wires extending along the socket in a hyperboloid arrangement suitably exposed for contact with a male contact member inserted within the socket,

wherein said wires are arranged in groups of at least two wires each,

wherein a circumferential spacing of said wires in each group is closer than a circumferential spacing between each adjacent pair of said groups, and

wherein the circumferential spacing between each adjacent pair of groups is free of any wires.

2. (Original) An electrical socket according to Claim 1, wherein said wires in each group extend along the socket in contact with one another.

3. (Previously Presented) An electrical socket according to Claim 1, wherein the socket includes three groups of two wires each.

4. (Previously Presented) An electrical socket according to claim 1, wherein said retaining structure includes a ring at each end of the socket, and wherein said wires are retained in groups by attachment to said rings at opposite ends of the socket.

5. (Currently Amended) An electrical socket comprising:

a first support member at one end of the socket;

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3 a second support member at an opposite end; a first pair of resilient contact wires extending along the socket at an angle to an axis of the socket;

5 wherein corresponding wires are attached to said first and second support members at opposite ends;

a second pair of resilient contact wires extending along the socket at an angle to the axis;

10 said second pair of wires being circumferentially spaced around the socket from said first pair and being attached with said first and second support members at opposite ends; and

21 a third pair of resilient contact wires extending along the socket at an angle to the axis;

15 said third pair of wires being circumferentially spaced around the socket from said first and second pairs and being attached with said first and second support members at opposite ends such that the three pairs of wires make a hyperboloid arrangement and are suitably exposed for contact with a male contact member inserted within the socket,

20 wherein a circumferential spacing between adjacent wires in each of the first and second pairs of wires is less than a circumferential spacing between each of the three pairs of wires, and

22 wherein the circumferential spacing between any adjacent pair of wires is free of any wires.

Claims 6-10 (Withdrawn).

11. (Previously Presented) An electrical socket according to Claim 2, wherein the socket includes three groups of two wires each.

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c) 12. (Previously Presented) An electrical socket according to claim 2, wherein said retaining structure includes a ring at each end of the socket, and wherein said wires are retained in groups by attachment to said rings at opposite ends of the socket.

13. (Previously Presented) An electrical socket according to claim 3, wherein said retaining structure includes a ring at each end of the socket, and wherein said wires are retained in groups by attachment to said rings at opposite ends of the socket.
